

*Inim. curio. Tho. Hearne Dec 3. 1728.
Ex dono optimae spei juvenis Joannis Larday,
Coll. Mag. Oxon. sup. ord. continens.*

320

T W O
P E T I T I O N S
O F
T H O M A S V I O L E T of
L O N D O N Goldsmith,
T O T H E
K I N G S Majestie:

- I. Setting forth the great abuses practised by the makers of Gold and Silver Thread, Wire, Lace, to the great waste of the Stock and Treasure of the Kingdome, in culling and melting down the heavy currant Silver.
- II. One hundred & twelve several parcels of course and adulterate Silver Lace, sold for good Silver by several Shopkeepers in London; all these assayes certified under the hands of Mr. Alexander Jackson, who is sworn Assay-Master at Goldsmiths Hall, which Silver was course and adulterate, under Sterling, being all wrought against the Law.
- III. Ten several Heads or Branches certified by the Committee of Trade the 17th of June 1657. setting forth the several abuses in making Gold and Silver Lace, Wire, and Thread; and several waies set down for the preventing the same for the future, to which I humbly referre.
- IV. *Thomas Violet's* Petition to the Right Honourable, several LORDS of the PRIVY COUNCIL, who are appointed a Committee for the removing the obstructions of the Mint, that their Honours would be pleased to take Order for the Regulating of this Trade, and prevent the abuses put upon the wearers of Gold and Silver Lace, and for their fuller information, that an Order may be directed from the LORDS of the COUNCIL to the Company of Goldsmiths, requiring them for His MAJESTIES service, that they forthwith take into consideration, to present to your Lordships such Rules, Orders, and Instructions for the due vending, and uttering of the said Manufactures, as they in their great experience shall find most necessary for the ends expressed.

84.1720

TO THE
K I N G S
 MOST
 Excellent Majestie:

And to the
 LORDS of His MAJESTIES
 most Honourable PRIVY COUNCIL.

The humble Petition of Thomas Violet Goldsmith.

Humbly Sheweth,



Hat your Majesties Royal Father of blessed memory, upon complaint to him made by many Persons, Noblemen, Gentlemen, Goldsmiths, and others; and also to his Majesties Privy Council, as appears by Orders of the Privy Council the 25. of January 1634. shewing,

That much course Gold & Silver Lace, Gold and Silver Thread, Spangles, Oaes and Wyre, was daily in great quantities sold for good

Silver, to the great damage and hinderance of the Mint, in the excessive quantities made for inferior persons. And that great quantities of English heavy Silver money, was culled, and melted down daily, for the making of these Manufactures, to the great wast of the stock of currant Silver, and to the daily deceit of the wearers of Gold and Silver Lace.

And by Order of some of your Majesties Royal Fathers Privy Council, viz. Mr. Secretary Cook, your Petitioner, and some others, were employed to buy up several parcels of Silver Lace, in several Silk-men,

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and Wyerdrawers Shops in London: and thereupon your Petitioner, and some others, brought the said Lace, Spangles, Wyer, Purles, Oaes, to Mr. *Alexander Jackson* Assay-Master of Goldsmiths-Hall, and he Assayed about one hundred and twelve several parcels of Gold and Silver Lace, Spangles, Thread, Wyer, &c. as appears under his hand. All these Assaies being by him the Sworne Officer appointed for that service, found, and reported to be all made of course and adultrate Silver, mixed with Copper, contrary to the Law, being vended, for good Silver; and the Gentleman is now living, a man of great experience, skill, and credit, that can attest this, to be true to your Majesties Privy Council.

And your Petitioner hath the names of the several mens Houses and Shops of the Silkmen, Wyerdrawers, and others, and the day, and the year, this course adultrate Silver was by them sold: These original Papers your Petitioner hath ready to produce to your Majestic, and your most honourable Council.

Thereupon his late Majesty, and his Privy Council, commanded Sir *John Banks*, your Majesties Father Attorney General, to put some of the eminent of the Offenders into the *Star-Chamber*; and thereupon both Refiners and Wyerdrawers petitioned his Majesty for a Corporation, and that they would so order themselves, that these abuses being so many, and fully proved, should all be regulated and prevented for the future. But upon full examination at the Privy Council, his Majesty, and the Lords, being fully possessed what had formerly been acted by the Wyerdrawers for several years. When they had a Corporation, that the abuses continued so notoriously notwithstanding the Wyerdrawers Charter, that their Corporation was damned in Parliament, about the latter end of King *James's* time, in a quiet time, this was done, and Sir *Giles Monpersons* had like to be undone for procuring the Wyerdrawers to have a Corporation, as will appear in the Parliament Records to which I humbly referre.

It was demonstrated in that Parliament, before your Majesties Royal Father, being then Prince, that the Wyerdrawers made Silver Wyer with a core of Copper, and sold the same for fine Silver; your Majesties Royal Father remembring this, was both shewed, and proved in the Parliament House of Lords, he being then present, would not trust the Wyerdrawers with a Corporation, 1634. his Majesty saying, *That would give the Gold Wyerdrawers an opportunitie to cozen the Kingdome againe;* they having cozened the Kingdome of above twenty thousand pounds a year, by deceitful making these Manufactures, and venting the same for good, for these last twenty years.

May it please your Majestic, your Royal Father upon debate, and advice of his Privy Council, taking special notice of your Petitioners activitie and abilitie to discover, and reforme these abuses, in consideration of these service, did by his Letters Patents appoint your
 Petitioner

Petitioner for three lives, and the longer liver of them, to have, and take the charge and care to be the Surveyers, Tryers, Sealers, Assayers of all Gold and Silver Wyer, Thread, Purles, Oaes, Spangles, and all other Manufactures of this sort, and to Mark, Register, Seal, or Assay the same, before any of these Manufactures should be exposed to saile; with power given to your Petitioner, to search for, and seaze on all course and adultrate Silver, made into any of the aforesaid Manufactures, and to burn, and deface the same, according to the Law, to suffer no Silver to be wrought into any of these Manufactures, or put to saile, but Sterling Silver at the least.

Your Petitioner hath two lives yet in being, his own life, and anothers, under the great Seal, for the grant and allowance of one half penny the ounce Troy for all Silver Wyer, Spangles, Purles, Oaes, and four pence the pound Venice, which is one half peny the ounce Troy for sealing or surveying all Gold and Silver Thread, &c.

For the consideration of these Fees, your Petitioner did keep, and is bound to keep at his own charge several persons to give their attendance to Survey or Assay all Gold or Silver Wyer, Thread, Spangles, &c. to pay House-rent, books, wax, fire, coles, &c. and to warrant to all persons whomsoever, that all Gold and Silver Wyer drawn at the Office appointed by your Majesties Royal Fathers Proclamation, should all be made of good Silver, none under Sterling, or the Standard.

And if it should chance any person or persons to be wronged in the premises, and buy Gold and Silver Wyer, Thread, or Lace, made and drawn, and sealed in the said Office, by your Petitioner, or his Servants, that then your Petitioner should pay full damages to any Person that could find out, or discover the same.

And your Majesties Royal Father set forth his Proclamation, and appointed by his Commissioners under the great Seal, some of His most honourable Privy Council, his Attorney and Solicitor General, and Masters of Request, and Clerks of the Council, His Officers of the Mint, and some eminent Aldermen to be His Commissioners, giving them instructions under his Majesties sign Manual, this being done 1635, by the advice of His Privy Council, after many daies hearing at the Council Table.

These Gentlemen sate every week one day, and five made a Committee, and sometimes more, to regulate and restrain the abuses, and they caused some of the Offenders to be set in the Pillory, being indicted at Newgate; and in the compasse of six years, brought the workmen, and all people trading in this Manufacture, into that good order and decorum, that all Gold and Silver Lace, Thread, Wyer, &c. was

Your Petitioner as exactly made as the Plate or moneys of the Kingdom, the numbers of Workmen regulated, a due Proportion of Silver to Silk, whereby this Manufacture was made the best in *London* of any place in *Christendom*, and your Petitioner seeing all orders and rules settled and made by the Commissioners, or any five of them to be duly executed, was the principal cause of that Reformation that followed. This Regulation was complained of in Parliament, 1640. but upon Examination all Parties put to take their Remedy by the Law, and I have in all times justified the Regulation.

But upon the persecution of the long Parliament, your Petitioner went to your Royal Father to *York*, and the honourable Commissioners appointed for the regulating this Manufacture, being Privy Counsellors, and other eminent Officers of the Kingdom. These Gentlemen, almost all of them, according to their duties, followed your Majesties Royal Father in all his Troubles, but since, length of Time, fortune of the Warres, and other casualties, almost all of these Honourable Counsellors are dead, by whose wisdom and care these abuses were regulated, and this Regulation afterwards neglected, the heavy coines melted, Silver slightly and adulterately made, to the damage of the Kingdom many hundred thousand pounds within this twenty years.

In your Petitioners Patent under the Great Seal of *England*, there is this Provisoe, that if hereafter the Government or Regulation of this Manufacture by Commissioners, be altered or changed into any other form, or any other Proclamation for the regulating this Manufacture, yet your Petitioners Grant, with his Fees and Powers, should be, and continue firme, good and effectual in the Law, as appears by your Petitioners Patent, dated 7 Sept. 14. Car. which Patent taken out of the Rolls, your Petitioner hath left with the Honourable Mr. Attorney General, with a Petition to your Majestie, formerly referred to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of your Majesties Treasury, touching the Regulation of this businesse, 15. Sept. 1661.

Your Petitioners humble prayer to your Majestie is, that your Majesty would speedily prevent the great abuses and disorders daily practised, in the undue making of Gold and Silver Thread, Wire, Lace, Spangles, and the unlawful melting of the heavy current silver Coines, there being above twenty thousand pounds a year wasted and bruised away, by thin and slight making of Silver Lace, for the private profit of the Wire drawers, which if it were duly made, would all be returned to the melting Pot, and avoid that waste of Treasure, that by order of your Majestie and your Privy Council, all persons as formerly, from 1635. to 1641. be enjoined to the due essaying of all Silver Wire at the Bar, and the Thread sealed, and true Registers kept of all Gold and Silver employed in this Manufacture, and all Bars and Engines brought into one place, according to the Pro-

clamation of your Majesties Royal Father, in the 11th. year of his Reign, I humbly beseech you: Majesty to read the Reasons of the Committee for Trade, fol. 11.

And that your Petitioner may be required to continue his Searches so often as he shall finde just occasion, to seize all course Silver, under sterling, made or making into any of these Manufactures, and to deface the same, returning the material to the Owner as soon as they are defaced, according to his Patent, that no Gold or Silver Lace be hereafter mixed in any part with Copper, or made under sterling.

For the better enabling your Petitioner to do this service, your Petitioner humbly prays your Majesty to renew your Royal Fathers former Commission 1635. with such alterations and additions, as your Majesty and your Privy Council, with the Attorney General shall judge fit, for the persons and the powers to be your Majesties Commissioners for this business, your royal Father of blessed memory observed of these wire-drawers in the Parliament, when he was Prince, that they had deceived their trust, and he would not trust them again: they have cozened the King-dome within these twenty years of above twenty thousand pounds a year, in slight, course, and deceitful silver lace, and now are endeavoring to get a Corporation, to work in iniquity by a Law, if your Majesty prevent it not.

Or else if your Majesty and your Privy Council shall think it meet for your service, and the fuller discovery of these abuses, (never suffer the Gold Wire-drawers to have a Corporation.) But if your Majesty, by advice of your Privy Council, command the Corporation of Goldsmiths, by reason the regulating of Gold and Silver is a particular branch of their Trade, that they be required by your Majesty to take and view the former regulation of this Manufacture, as it was settled by Commissioners, from the year 1635. to 1641. and to consider of such alterations and additions for the due Regulation of this Manufacture, that all abuses now practised in the Workmasters, Workmen, Traders and Venders of this Commodity, may for the future be prevented; your Majesty, Nobility, and Gentry duly served with good Silver Lace, which maintaines by Manufacture many thousand people in the City of London.

All Gold and Silver Wire drawn at the Office for any of these aforesaid Manufactures, of Lace, Thread, Embroidery, to be essayed and warranted to be good Silver by your Petitioner, as he hath put in Security into the Exchequer, or to pay the damage.

That the Company of Goldsmiths, as often as occasion shall require, shall from time to time propound such Rules and Orders, for the due making, vending, and uttering the same Manufactures, as they in their experience shall finde most necessary for the ends expressed, and being required by your Majesty, for their daily assisting, advising, and counselling your Petitioner to discharge the Trust and Duty of his Place, according to his Grant under the Great Seal, that so all the former abuses for the future may be prevented, and the credit of this manufacture restored, and your Petitioner encouraged to do his duty, to discover these abuses, and for to incourage the Goldsmiths Company to look carefully after this business,

May it please your Majesty, I have spoken with the Company of Goldsmiths about a month since, who have declared to me, that if your Majesty or your Privy Council send them your commands to set down the waies and rules, to the best of their skill for this Regulation, they will withal rediness humbly do it; and if these rules be approved on with such alterations as your Majesty, & your Privy Council shall judge fit, and by your Majesty recommended to the Parliament, and by them approved; they tell me this is the only certain and safe way for them to act, to reforme this abuse, which the Goldsmiths have confessed, they know is a great shame to the Kingdome, that the Nobility and Gentry shou'd be so daily deceived as they are, in course slight, adulterate silver lace, wyer, spang, &c. this day attend) touching the detriment which ariseth by the undue practices, thred, &c.

ing of the Assay-

ing of, and Surveying of these Manufactures by your Petitioner, will for the future prevent, and the advice and assistance of the Company of Goldsmiths, will strengthen your Petitioner in this service.

businessse, that after the Expiration of your Petitioners Grant, by your Majesties grace and goodnesse, the Powers, Fees and Salaries granted to your Petitioner, to enable him to do this service, may for ever be fixed and annexed to the Company of Goldsmiths and their Successors, they then putting in Security in fifteen hundred pounds into the Exchequer, as your Petitioner hath done already, for the warranting all Gold and Silver Wire drawn as aforesaid, for making any the aforesaid Manufactures to be good Silver, and that the Company of Goldsmiths by your Majesties Gracious Reference, be commanded to certifie your Majesties Privy Council, and your Attorney General, of such wayes and Rules they shall find best to prevent these abuses, your Majestie being graciously pleased to recommend the same to your Parliament, to have this Regulation settled on the Goldsmiths by Parliament. This will perfect the Reformation, and prevent the daily abuses put on the Wearers of Gold and Silver Lace, when the Company of Goldsmiths that are Artists, but no Traders in this Manufacture, shall be bound to warrant the same to all persons, and to survey and see the Gold Wire drawers do their duty.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

At the Court at *Whitehall* Jan. 25. 1634.
Present.

The KINGS most Excellent Majestie.

Lord Archb. of Cant.	Earle Marshall.	Lord Newburgh.
Lord Keeper.	Lord Chamberlaine.	Mr. Treasurer.
Lord Treasurer.	Earle of Dorset.	Mr. Comptroller.
Lord Privie Seale.	Earle of Carlisle.	Mr. Vice Chamberl.
Lord Duke of Lenox.	Earle of Holland.	Mr. Secretary Coke.
Lord Mar. Hamilton	Lord Cottington.	Mr. Secret. Windebank



Upon Complaint made this day to his Majestie, sitting in Counsel by Sir Henry Mildmay, Knight Master of the Jewel-house, that much of his Majesties Plate had bin stollen, and then melted down into Ingots, and unlawfully sold, as well to sundry Goldsmiths as to Refiners. For proof whereof he presented sundry depositions, of which two were read. And upon Information given by some of the Wardens and Company of Goldsmiths, (who did

offices

etices of the said Refiners. Who in stead of selling Silver Bullion to the said Company of Goldsmiths, or bringing it to the Mint, according to the Statute of the fourth year of *Henry* the seventh, do raise the same in fineness, and utter it to the Wire drawers, and others of like Trades, at higher rates, then either the Mint can allow, or the Goldsmiths can give. And do thereby cause the Consumption of a great and excessive mass of gold and silver, in thread, spangles, and other unnecessary things. His Majesty having taken the premisses into consideration, was pleased to order and command (with advice of the Board) that the said *Sir Henry Mildmay* shall go to Mr. Attorney General, with the said depositions, and what he else can produce to that purpose. And that the Goldsmiths shall likewise attend the said Mr. Attorney, with such informations as they have already, or can recover by further Inquire, (wherein they are to use all speed and diligence) And that thereupon Mr. Attorney shall prosecute in a legal way, such as he shall finde to be offenders as well Goldsmiths as Refiners, in any of the particulars beforementioned, And cause the said Statute (against the said Refiners, &c.) to be strictly put in execution. And such course to be presently taken, that the penalties thereupon may be recovered against such as are or shall be found offenders against the said Statute.

W. BECHER.

IN Prosecution of the aforesaid Order, and to bring the Offenders to Justice, by order of Mr. Secretary Cook and others. Mr. Alexander Jackson, the sworne Assay-Master of Goldsmiths Hall, was commanded to make true Assay of an hundred and twelve several parcels of Gold and Silver lace, Spangles, burnt Silver, some of this silver Lace and Thread, holding in Copper above foure ounces on a pound Troy, some 6 d. 3 d. 2 d. worse then sterling upon the ounce. This was done in April 1635. And in May 1639. all these parcels of Silver Lace, Purles, Spangles and Thread, made and reported by the abovesaid Mr. Alexander Jackson, for which service I paid him five pounds, as I have his Receipt and Assayes reported under his hand, who is now living, a Gentleman of great experience and credit, and can justifie upon his Oath these several parcels of Silver Lace, being all under sterling; And I have it Attested under several hands, that these parcels of Silver Lace was made, uttered, and sold against the Lawes of the Kingdom, and contrary to the Oath of every Freeman of London, every Freeman working any Gold or Silver, doth or ought to sware to work no Silver in any Manufacture but sterling, nor no Gold in Manufacture under Crown Gold, that by the Law all persons offending ought to be Indited, and stand in the Pillory, and

and be fined at the Pleasure of the Justices at the Sessions, and find Sureties for their good behaviour.

I caused some of these offenders that made Silver Lace, Wire and Thread, with a Core of Copper, to be set in the Pillory in Cheapside, and fined at the Sessions, and caused twenty men to run out of the City of London, beyond seas, for selling Silver Lace mixed with Copper, This Sir George Sands knoweth to be true, his brother being cozened here in London with a great parcel of Silver Lace mixed with Copper, which he paid for as good Silver.

If your Majestie had not pardoned these Abuses, I could set down the particular names, and mark them to posterity with a black Impression, of both Silkmen, Wire drawers, and others, with the number of about fifty Shopkeepers, who sold these hundred and twelve parcels of course counterfeited Lace, Spangles, Thread, Wire, for good Silver, and the year and day they did it, with good witnesses to prove it, which had they their due, by the Law they ought to stand in the Pillory, and make fine and ransom to your Majestie. But I hope for their amendment; yet if required, I can produce to your Majesties most Honourable Privy Council their Names with witness.

At the Sub-Committee of Parliament, appointed to take into consideration the several petitions of the Refiners of gold and silver, the Gold Wyer drawers, the Hand-Spinners with the Charie and Spindle, and the Wheel spinners, and of Thomas Violet of London, Goldsmith, for the due regulation of the Manufactures of Gold and Silver wyer and thread, purl, oaes, plased wyer, spangles, and Copper wyer and thread, &c. to prevent the former abuses practised in the said Manufactures: and to prohibit the culling, and melting down the currant Silver coynes of this Nation for the future.

WE have called before us the Petitioners, and have several dayes heard this businesse, and upon consideration had, we do offer as followeth.

1. Forasmuch as it appeared unto us, that several great abuses have been, and are daily committed in the culling, and melting down of the currant silver coynes, of this Nation: It is therefore offered, as our opinion, that his ——— and the Parliament, take strict order, by Proclamation, or otherwise, to restrain the melting down of the currant coines
of

of this Nation, for the making of their Manufactures, or any other manufacture whatsoever. We have had presented unto us four Proclamations, two of them in the time of the late King *James* his Reign, and the other two in the time of the late King *Charles*: which Proclamations we have perused, and do find in all of them, that the melting down of any of the currant Coines of this Nation is forbidden, upon strict penalties to be laid, and inflicted upon the offenders.

2. It is also our opinion, that it would be good and beneficial to this Commonwealth, if his ——— and the Parliament would be pleased to take order to prevent the daily abuses practised by Artifts, in the making of these manufactures aforesaid; And for the discovering of these frauds for the time to come; And for that end and purpose to appoint a sworn Surveyor, with a Seal, for the sealing of all gold and silver thred, and copper thred, and to appoint punchion irons to be made, to mark all gold and silver wyer, that shall be employed or spent in any the said manufactures: And the Surveyor, Assayer, or Sealer, to put in good security to his ——— in the Exchequer, in the sum of 1500 £ to warrant all the manufactures sealed, surveyed, and marked, to be good silver and gold, according to the standard, and well and duely made; the silver and gold thred to contain five ounces *Troy* to a pound weight *Venice*, which is Eight Ounces *Troy*, and one fifth part: And that no gold or silver wyer or thread, shall be hereafter made and sold, under sterling, or before the said gold and silver thread, or wyer, be viewed, and sealed, or stamped, upon pain of forfeiture of the same to his ———: And that strict order and command be given, that no person, or persons, do counterfeit the aforesaid Seal, or stamps which are to be appointed by his ——— or the Parliament. The late King, to prevent the aforesaid abuses, in the eleventh year of his reign, by Proclamation appointed the Rose crowned, to be the seal, for sealing this manufacture of gold and silver thred; and for the copper gilt, and silvered thred, the seal appointed was the Lion crowned.

3. We offer it as our opinion, that all gold and silver thread, which shall be hereafter made, shall hold a due proportion of silver to silk: *viz.* no gold or silver thread be for the time to come made, under five ounces *Troy*, of sterling silver, to a pound weight *Venice*, upon pain of forfeiture of all the aforesaid manufactures, which shall not be wrought according to the aforesaid rule. But every work-master, and other persons whomsoever, are allowed to put in as much more silver as he or they please. And this rule being duely observed, will prevent all slight making of gold and silver thread: which will save the State in the Bullion of this

Nation, many thousand pounds a year, which is now brushed and blown away, and comes to nothing.

4. We offer it, as our opinion, that the Office of Surveyor, Sealer, or Assayer, may be in one person, to be responsible to the Commonwealth, for all abuses in sealing sleight and adulterate silver thread, or marking course silver Wyer, under Sterling; to avoid putting and posting off one from another, the abuses, when they are found, either of course silver wyer, or of course gold or silver thread, made under Sterling, or not justly made, with five ounces of silver, *Troy* weight, to a pound *Venice*; That so the office being in one person, all persons wronged may know certainly where, and to whom they may come for their remedy, for all silver thread that is sealed, or silver wyer marked or stamped in the office, & which shall be found course and adulterate, or under Sterling, the officer to be bound to make it good, and pay the damage.

5. That the Sealers or Surveyers, shall cause all the silver employed for these manufactures, to be duely assayed in the Barr, or Ingot, or in the hanck of wyer; and that true Registers and Entries be kept of the same, both of the quantity, and fineness of every bar of silver, or hanck of Wyer disgrossed for these manufactures. And that the State may have a just account what silver is spent in this manufacture yearly: to that end, all Barrs and Disgrossing Irons, be brought to one place: as the late King by his Proclamation settled this manufacture, in the eleventh year of his reign.

6. That all gold and silver thread shall be made up in skeynes, and not on quills, according to the rules in the late Kings time; as appears by the Proclamation in the eleventh year of the late King *Charles*. And that at one end of the skeyne there be put the workmans mark, and at the other, the Surveyors mark, or seal, to testify the goodnesse thereof. And that all Master-workmen bring in their names, and their abiding places, and work-houses, and their seals, or marks, to be hung up openly in the office, as was formerly done in 1635. in the Office in *Little Britain*, upon the penalty and pain of 200 l.

And that the Surveyor and his deputies, may be empowered to make searches so often as he shall find occasion, to see all the workers of these manufactures, make good, and warrantable gold and silver thread and wyer, for all the said manufactures; and to seize all course and adulterate and sleight manufactures aforesaid, for the use of his ———, where they shall be found false, or adulterate, or not a due proportion of silver to silk; or any person, or persons working these manufactures, whose

whose name is not registred in the Office. We leave it to his ——— and the Parliament, to set down what proportion of the seizures shall go to them that discovers the same offenders, for their encouragement.

7. Whereas upon hearing all parties concerned in the making of gold and silver thread, and upon due consideration of the same, finding that the use of the Wheelles in making the said Manufacture of gold and silver thread, is of great prejudice to the Commonwealth, in the making of slight, false, and counterfeit ware; and to the utter undoing of many thousands of poor Hand-spinners, who make the said Manufacture with the Chair and Spindle: It is therefore the opinion of the said Committee, that the making of the said Manufacture by the Wheelles, be totally suppressd.

8. Forasmuch as this Committee are satisfied, that a great number of servant Maids leave their services, and betake themselves to the Trade of silver-spinning, lying in private chambers; not only to the impoverishing of themselves, but also of those who have been long exercised, and brought up in the said Trade, to the utter ruine of the poor people who have served apprenticeships to this Trade, and their families: It is therefore offered as the opinion of this Committee, that from henceforth no person, or persons, either men or women, exercise the Trade of making this manufacture, but such who shall have served the terme of seven yeares apprenticeship to the said Trade, or have been exercised in the same for the terme of seven yeares last past.

9. We offer, that no gold or silver lace, or other the manufactures aforesaid, be made up, or mingled with any Copper gold or silver thread, wyer, or plate, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, And that no person using, or making any copper gold, or copper silver wyer, plate, thread, spangles, oaes, or any other the manufactures aforesaid, shall at the same time, make, utter, or sell any right gold and silver, under the penalty of one hundred pounds. And we do likewise think it necessary, that all copper wyer being silvered, or gilt, be disgrossed all at one place: and the copper thread to be sealed with a seal to be appointed by his ——— and the Parliament; and the Surveyer of the silver thread to be keeper of the seal for the copper; as was formerly done by the Regulation in the 11th. of King Charles.

10. We offer it as the opinion of this Committee, That whereas the Refiners and Wyer-drawers have desired a Corporation, to regulate their

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their Trade, and the numbers, and that interlopers, and such as have
no right to the trade, may not pester their profession; these interlopers
working unduely in corners: We conceive a Corporation granted to
them, with several restrictions, for the just, and due Regulation, may
be very serviceable to the Commonwealthe: and some of these Restricti-
ons we here set down, the rest we leave to be added. 1. That this Trade
never get a licence to cull, or melt the coyne of the Nation, for making
their manufacture. 2. That they may not work any silver under the
Standard. 3. That they may not work gold or silver thread with lesse
silver then five ounces Troy weight, to a pound Venice; for the thin plate
of silver to a great body of silk, being laid on a garment the silver is brush-
ed, and rubbed away, and there remains very little silver to the melting-
pot: and by this fraudulent practice, an incredible sum of silver is wait-
ed yearly, as hath been affirmed to us by Artificers, above thirty thousand
pounds a year, which by this Regulation, of putting five ounces Troy of
silver, to a pound Venice, will be saved in the stock of the Nation; and
the lace will last four times as long, and the silver will return all to the
melting-pot. It is our opinions, that his ——— have yearly the
weight and true value, and fineness of the Standard of all gold and sil-
ver daily employed, or spent in this manufacture, as they register in the
mint and Goldsmiths-Hall, the true weight of the plate and moneys;
and this Register shall be kept and delivered in yearly, by the Sealer and
Assayer of this manufacture upon oath. And we offer it as our opini-
ons, That if the State will have any good to come of this Regulation,
and to be justly and faithfully served; then the place of Surveyer, or
Sealer and Assayer, must never be put into the hands of any person that
is a trader in these manufactures, but such a one as hath skill, and is
no trader in these manufactures; for if he once be a trader, during the
time he is Surveyer and Sealer, he will be his own carver, and then he
will have a great temptation to be corrupt.

11. We find, upon several dayes examination of this business, concern-
ing the Regulation of these Manufactures, Mr. Thomas Violet, who is under
sequestration, who formerly was Surveyer and Sealer in the late Kings
time, and hath prosecuted this business, for many yeares, to have a due
Regulation of these manufactures, to be a person very active, and know-
ing in every part of the mystery of these manufactures. He hath present-
ed unto us by proof, attested under several mens hands, the general a-
buse that was in London, in the deceitful making these manufactures, and
selling them for good silver, when they were all course and adulte-
rate; which caused the late King and his Council in 1635, to settle that
Regulation.

And

And we are all of opinion, that there is an absolute necessity, for the service and advantage of the Commonwealth, to prevent the frauds daily practised in the making these Manufactures, that such an office and Officer, for the sealing, marking, surveying, and assaying all the aforesaid Manufactures, be appointed, and settled for the time to come : and the said Officer to warrant these manufactures to the wearers, and Nation in general : and to put in good security in the Exchequer for doing the same, in the summe of fifteen hundred pounds, to have this course taken. We hold it very fit and necessary, for the prevention of all the aforesaid abuses, now put on this Commonwealth. And the undertaker ought to have all encouragement in this businesse, being a considerable service done to the Nation ; most especially to such as wear gold and silver lace,

All which we submit.

16. June, 1667.

1657

This is a true Copy of the several Votes of the Subcommittee, to whom the Petition of Mr. Thomas Violet was referred. Which Votes were signed by Mr. Duncer, Mr. Moody, and Mr. Clark.

John Martin Clark to the Committee for Trade.

To the Right Honourable, the
PARLIAMENT of England, &c.

The humble Petition of Thomas Violet.

Humbly Sheweth,



That your Petitioner represented the 1. April 1659. unto the Parliament then sitting, that daily great quantities of heavy currant Silver Coines of this Nation, were melted down for the making Gold and Silver Wyer, Lace, Thread, Ribbons, Spangles, &c. to the great wast of the stock of the Nation ; by which evil practises many mischiefs, cheats, and damages are intruded upon this Common-wealth, which ought strictly to be prevented, and most especially in this conjuncture of time, having wars with Spain ; and the springs of Silver which used to flow in to us by Trade, now stopped.

That

That great quantities of Gold and Silver Thread, and Lace, is slightly, and unduely wrought, to the great deceit of those that wear the same, as your Petitioner hath proved in many particulars to the late Committee of Parliament for Trade, to whom that business was referred.

And they upon many daies Examination, and full hearing of all parties, as by their Certificate of the Committee of Trade hereunto annexed, may more tully appear; have certified the daily great abuses by the false, and deceitful making Gold and Silver Thread and Wyer, the wearers being daily cozened, both in putting into their Silver Thread a slight proportion of Silver to silk, whereas they should make good silver Thread to containe six ounces fine silver, and two ounces of silk to one pound Venice of Silver Thread, and five ounces fine silver, and three ounces of silk to the slightest Silver Thread, that ought to be made.

Now great quantities of Gold and Silver Thread and Lace, is dayly sold, which contains five ounces Silk, to three ounces Silver, and four ounces Silver to four ounces silk; and many times this Silver Lace is not onely slightly and deceitfully made with a lesse proportion of silver to silk, then it ought to be, but also is made under sterling silver, being mix'd with Copper, and the silk false and deceitfully dyed, which makes the Lace turne black and tarnish, and spoiles the Garment of all persons that wear the same, as soon as any wet or aire comes to the Lace.

Your Petitioner (the last Parliament in *June, anno 1657.* produced Mr. *Alexander Jackson*, the Sworne Assay-Master of Goldsmiths Hall, before the Committee for Trade, who being examined, confessed that at one time, in the compasse of a few weeks, he made Assay of above one hundred several parcels of Gold and Silver Lace, Thread, Spangles, Wyer, which was bought up in several Shops in *London*, and brought to him by your Petitioner and others; all which silver Manufactures was sold for good Silver, and upon the Assaies every several parcel was found course and adultrate, under the Standard, as is attested under the hand of Mr. *Alexander Jackson* Sworne Assay-Master for the Company of Goldsmiths, which Certificate your Petitioner hath ready to be produced for your Honours view.

It is certified by the Committee of Trade *16 June 1657.* that they find it affirmed to them by several Artists, that by the slight making of Gold and Silver Thread and Lace, there is above thirty thousand pounds a year wasted and spent in this Nation, which by a due regulation of enjoyning all persons to put at least five ounces fine silver to the pound Venice, this Treasure would all be saved in the Stock
of

of this Nation, and the Lace will last four times as long, as it now doth, and not turne black, and the silver return all to the melting Pot; for great quantitties of Silver Lace that is now sould, the buyers are cozened both in the fineness of the silver, being mixed with Copper under Sterling, or paying for silver when they buy silk heavy dyed, having many times a third part silk, more then ought to be put into the silver Thread, were it duely made, according to the former Rules 1635. to 1641. The late Sub-Committee for Trade, made so large a progresse into this businesse, finding it to be of great concernment, spent many daies to finish their Report, and have certified the several frauds practised in the making all these Manufactures of Gold and Silver Wyer, Thread, &c. And have set down Waies and Rules for the preventing the like abuses for the future.

Your Petitioners most humble prayer is, that this High Court would be pleased to finish so good a work, and perfect the Regulation of this Manufacture for the future, and that a Law be made, that none of the currant silver Coines be hereafter melted for the making any of these Manufactures: that no Gold or Silver in Wyer or Lace, be put to saile under Sterling: that no Gold or Silver Thread, hold or containe lesse silver then five ounces silver to be at the least Sterling, upon severer penalties, besides the defacing of the Materials.

And that your Petitioner be commanded by the Parliament, to see to the due Execution, and to receive such fees and allowances, as he is authorized to take by his Patent under the great Seale of England.

And your Petitioner shall pray, &c.

This pretended Parliament referred this Petition to a Committee, and shortly after were forced, and dissolved by the Army. The Rump Parliament succeeded them, and promised to reforme these abuses, but did nothing but promise and delay. His MAJESTY returning for England, upon whose blessed arrival, your Petitioner made this following Petition, and had this gracious Reference to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury: The original Petition is in the custody of Sir Philip Warwick, and followers, viz.

To

TO THE
KINGS Most Excellent MAJESTY,

The humble Petition of *Thomas Violet*, of
London, Goldsmith,

Humbly sheweth,



That your Petitioner being commanded by your Majesties Royal Father; in 1643. to bring up his gracious letter to his City of *London*, directed to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and all other his well affected Subjects of that City, which letter your Petitioner did bring up to *London*, and was for so doing, committed to the Tower, by order of Parliament, where he remained four yeares, and for 928 dayes of that time, kept close prisoner in a dismal place, little better than a Dungeon: in which time of confinement, your Petitioner expended above 700 *l*, and the Parliament sequestred your Petitioner of all his estate they could finger, to the value of 11000 *l*. and being taken out of all his employment, to his damage of above 20000 *l*. and could never obtain any part of his estate, to his total ruine, without your Majesty in your mercy relieve him. Your Petitioner prostrate at your Majesties feet, presents to your Majestie, the great severity of your Petitioners sufferings, there never being the like sad president in the Nation, during all these distracted times, that a man for bringing up a letter of peace from his late Majesty of glorious memory, should be ruined for obeying his Majesties commands; the only cause of your Petitioners sequestration and ruine being for so doing.

That upon complaint made by several persons, that great quantities of the currant heavy silver coynes and plate in this Nation is daily melted, and wasted, for the making of the manufacture of gold and silver thread, wyer, and lace, to the great waste and destruction of the stock of heavy *English* money, and great quantities of gold and silver transported without licence.

To prevent these abuses, your Majesties Royal Father, by the advice of his Privy Counsel, did grant unto your Petitioner for three lives, and the longest liver of them, the 7th. day of *September*, in the 14th. year of his late Majesties reign, a Patent under the great Seal of *England*, for the regulating the aforesaid abuses; and granted to them, and the longer liver of

of them, a Seal, being the Rose and Crown, with a prohibition to all persons, not to presume to counterfeit the same: Which Seal was for the sealing of all gold and silver thread, which they found upon Assay, Survey or Tryal, to be made of good silver, with a due proportion of silver to silk. And your Petitioners had by Patent for two lives, four pence the pound weight *Venise*, for warranting all the aforesaid gold and silver thread to be good silver, at least Sterling, according to the Standard of this Nation. And thereupon being made up in skynes, we were to put the aforesaid seal upon it: and by their aforesaid grant, we were upon the drawing and disgrossing of all gold and silver wyer, for the making of spangles, oaes, purl, or gold and silver thread; upon the assaying of the said wyer at the bar, we were to register the weight and fineness: and thereupon your Petitioner to receive one half penny an Ounce for all wyer employed in any the aforesaid Manufactures; and your Petitioner was impowered to receive all duties imposed, laid, or to be laid upon any the said manufactures. Upon consideration of the said Fees, your Petitioner is bound in the Exchequer with good security in 1500 *l.* that all silver assayed, sealed, marked, or surveyed, as aforesaid, was to be fine silver, at the least as good as sterling: Whereas many yeares your Petitioner regulated this manufacture, and caused the same to be as exactly made, 'as the coyne, or plate of this Nation, till these sad troubles, when the Parliament sequestred your Petitioner.

Your Petitioners humble prayer is, That your Majesty would be pleased to recommend to the Parliament, or to your Majesties Commissioners of your Treasury, the restraining of the melting of the currant silver coynes of this Nation, for the making of any the aforesaid manufactures, and against transporting gold and silver, and for the due paying of the duties and fees, according to the aforesaid Letters Patents: Which will prevent the abuses daily practised and committed: and these manufactures shall by your Petitioner for the future, be warranted to be good to the wearers, or to pay all damages to the parties grieved, according as your Petitioner covenanted in the said Letters Patents. And in regard of your Petitioners great sufferings and losses, for doing your Royal Majesties Fathers service, as aforesaid; That your Majesty would be graciously pleased, by patent, to make your Petitioner one of your Majesties Auditors for the impresse, with the same fees as Auditor Beale and Auditor Bingly formerly received: or one of the Tellers of your Majesties Exchequer, with the usual fees: or that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to appoint your

*Petitioner some Office in the Custome-house, or Excise; your
Petitioner (by the blessing of God) and his own industry and ex-
perience, will improve your Majesties revenue in the said Offices.*

*And as in duty bound, your Petitioner shall
pray for your Majesties long health and
happinesse.*

*At the Court at White-Hall,
27. June 1660.*

HIs Majesty being very sensible of
the Petitioners Loyalty, and suf-
ferings, is Graciously pleased to
refer the Consideration and Examination of
the Assertions in this Petition, to the Lords
Commissioners of his Majesties Treasury,
who are accordingly to inform and certifie
his Majesty what their Lordships conceive
fit for his Majesty to do for relief of the Pe-
titioner, as is desired: and then his Majesty
will Declare his further Pleasure concern-
ing the Petitioners humble request.

R O B. M A S O N.

*This Original Petition and Reference is in
the Hands of Sir Phil. Warwick.*

T O

Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor of *England*, the Lord High Treasurer of *England*, the Lord Privy Seal; the Lord *Ashley* Chancellor of the Exchequer being all of the Committee for removing the obstructions of the Mint,

The humble Petition of Thomas Violet Goldsmith,

May it please your Lordships,



When I first left this aforesaid Petition with Sir Philip *Warwick*, I was commanded by some of your Lordships, to bring into the Lords of the Council a draught of a Proclamation against transporting of Gold and Silver, which I did, which begat a dispute at the Council of Trade, and a Certificate from them, for the Merchants to have free liberty to Export Gold and Silver without Licence, to have a free Market.

Whereupon I thought my self bound by my Allegiance, considering how much it did import the honour, safety, and welfare of his Majesty, and the Lords of His Privy Council, who by the Law can only grant to the Merchants upon their Petition and just Reasons shown, leave to transport Gold and Silver out of the Kingdome; and I know the mischiefs which might come to the Kingdome, if this great trust were left to the Merchants.

I did humbly (according to my best abilities) state the Kings right, and His Privy Councils by the Law, to have the only liberty to dispence with the Statutes against transporting Gold and Silver; which Reasons was opposed by some Honourable Gentlemen of the Council of Trade, before his Majesty and His Privy Council.

Sir *George Downing* and others, humbly pressing Arguments for to have that Royal Flower of the Crown, and to leave it free to the Merchants and others, to transport Gold and Silver.

Your Petitioner being commanded by his Majesty to give Sir *George*

Downing an answer, I was necessitated to make a further Reply; and his Majesty was graciously pleased not to part with so great a power and trust to any other, then as the Law had invested it, his Majesty and His Privy Council being soly the Judges to restrain, or licence the transporting Gold and Silver, according as they in their wisdoms thought fit.

And since in the persuance of removing some obstructions in the Mint, his Majesty hath set forth three Proclamations, one against transporting Gold or Silver without leave from his Majesty; the other setting the Rule of the currant Gold Coine of this Kingdome; and the third decrying down after a certain Day, all Gold and Silver Coines that have been made in England since 1640. by any authority whomsoever, without his Majesties, and His Royal Fathers Warrant and Proclamation to make them currant.

I never held it my duty to do the Kings Majesties business first, and when that was done, humbly to present that which hath relation to my particular interest; & having obeyed some of your Lordships commands to give the Merchants a reason, why His Majesty could not trust them with the power to transport money, but with the inconvenience of the whole Kingdom in general. Having done the Kings business, I now humbly come to your Honours to have the Execution of this aforesaid office, to Regulate Gold and Silver thread which I have granted unto me under the Great Seal of England for two lives.

May it please your Lordships, your Petitioner being intrusted with the Officers of his Majesties Mint, and commanded by some of your Lordships to draw the draft of the Proclamation the 10. of June in the thirteenth year of his Majesties Reign: He intreated the Officers of the Mint to speak with Mr. Attorney General, concerning the great abuses committed by the Corporation of Wire drawers, in the adulterate, false, and slight making of Gold and Silver Lace. And so insert it into the Proclamation, that the Kings Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, would take speedy Order therein. The words are, *Viz.*

That whereas there is daily a great consumption of the heavy currant Silver Coines of the Kingdome and Bullion, in the unlawful making Gold and Silver Wyer, Tread, Spangles, Ooes, Purles, and Lace of course Silver under Sterling; His Majesty doth intend in due time, to take such strict course, as shall reduce the makers of these Manufactures into such Order, that all the abuses formerly put on the Subjects, shall for the future be prevented, and these Manufactures of Gold and Silver duly regulated and assayed, according to the Lawes of the Kingdome.

May it please your Lordships, This Clause in his Majesties Proclamation, gave the Alarm to some persons that are Wire drawers, to engage some worthy Gentlemen to be instrumental to procure the Wire drawers a Corporation from his sacred Majesty: and a draught of the Corporation being presented to the Wire drawers by some persons, who do undertake to use their endeavours for to obtain a Corporation for them, the model presented was not liked by the Gold Wire drawers: Therefore the Gentleman desires the Gold Wire drawers, that they would alter the model of their Charter of Corporation as they pleased; and he would endeavour to get from his Majesty the Corporation according as the Wire drawers would have it; for which the Gentleman covenants with

with the Wire drawers to have from them one half penny the ounce for all Silver Wire employed to make Lace or Thread, &c,

May it please your Lordships, this Gentleman that would be tampering to get a Corporation for the Gold Wire drawers of London, doth not know the former passages and proceedings in Parliament touching this very Trade, and the Workers, being Gold Wire drawers.

About the year 1618. one Sir John Michael, and Sir Giles Monpersons together with the then Attorney General, which I take it to be Attorney General Elverton, combined together, and for a some of money, procured the Gold Wire drawers a Corporation by sinister information to King James, which Corporation was complained of the next Parliament as a great abuse, and cozenage of these Wire drawers of the Kingdome, openly shown to the Prince, and Lords, in the House of Lords, and by Act of Parliament their Corporation was damned, Sir Giles Monpersons, Sir John Michael being sentenced by Parliament for this Corporation, the Attorney General hardly escaped: I humbly referre my self to the Records of Parliament; which may be a warning for any, to have a care what they do, in going about to get these Wire drawers a Corporation, let them remember Sir Giles Monpersons.

May it please your Lordships, your humble Petitioner hath his Majesties Royal Fathers Grant under the great Seal of England, Dated the 7. of Sept. in the fourteenth year of his Majesties Royal Father Reign, for two lives yet in being, his own life, and another, and the longer liver to warrant all these Manufactures to the wearers, and to receive one half penny the ounce upon all Wire Assayed or Sealed; and four pence the pound Venice for Gold or Silver Thread for sealing it, and warranting it to the wearers to be good, with a due proportion of Silver to Silk; which his Majesties Royal Father gave to your Petitioner for two thousand pounds his Majesty owed your Petitioner, for all his service and charges in spending above two thousand pounds to cause the transporters of Gold and Silver to be fined in the Star Chamber, and sentenced by the Lords, such Persons and such Fines set upon them as followeth, 13. Caroli. in the Star-Chamber. viz,

Charles Frank	4000 ^l	Rich. Cockrem	1000 ^l	Isaac Brames	1000 ^l
Robert Ellis	4000 ^l	John Parrat	2000 ^l	Henry Futter	500 ^l
Isaac Romeere	3000 ^l	Peter Herne	2000 ^l	Henry Sweeting	500 ^l
Jacob Delew	1000 ^l	John Terry	2000 ^l	John Perrin	100 ^l
Roger Fletcher	1000 ^l	Timothy Eman	2000 ^l		

The totall of the said Fines amount to the summe of 24100^l.

At this day there wants a high Court of Star Chamber, to punish the transporters of Gold and Silver, and some Goldsmiths that furnish them with gold. This sentence did this good in the City of London, that for seven years after, from 1635, to 1642. that the Merchants were affraid to transport Gold or Silver; and the Mint constantly was kept on work, till these late troubles that overturned all things.

I shall humbly desire that your order ship would be pleased to take notice, that though his Majesty by his Proclamation

hath called upon Gold, a twenty shilling piece to go for 21 shilling, 4 pence, and for a goldsmiths do take the bouldness to give 21 shilling, 8 pence, 21 shilling, 9 pence, and 21 shillings 10 pence. And this Gold is bought up by the Seckaries, either to transport, or else to hoard up for some bad design: His Majesty and your Lordships had need to be vigilant over these Fanaticks, they are daily working & hatching, God grant this Cheekatrice be watched.

Your Petitioners humble prayer is, that by your Lordships Justice for his Majesties service, this Manufacture be put under some strict Rule and Order, and that nothing may passe under your Lordships hands that may prejudice your Petitioners Grant which he hath under the great Seal of England, for the regulating the said Manufacture.

1. I have humbly to recommend to your Honours great wisdom, the due consideration of these severall following Heads, and humbly leave them at your Honours feet; and though they may not please the Wires drawers, yet I am sure they be for his Majesties service. It is true, there is twenty thousand souls in London, live, and have dependance on this Manufacture, and that made King James and King Charles suffer this Manufacture to be made here.

2. My good Lords, it is worthy of consideration, the great damage his Majesty sustains in the losse of his Customer, the losse and prejudice of his Majesties Mint, by suffering the Silver after it is imported into this Kingdome, to be made into Silver Lace, &c. to be diverted from Coyn, which would pay a duty of coynage, and augment the stock of the Kingdome, which is now converted into this Manufacture: the vauw employed in Gold and Silver yearly, is about one hundred thousand pounds a year in Gold and Silver Lace, Wire, &c. which was it converted into Coine every year, and so passed between men, would drive a million for commodities a year in Trade, to the great improvement of the Kingdome by Commerce and Trade.

3. That upon calculation it will be found, the King in point of Customes and other Profits, loses above ten thousand pounds a year, by suffering this Manufacture to be made in England, as will appear upon calculation of his Majesties Book of Rates of his Customes.

4. That at this day there is no Excise laid on this Commodity, which under favour, humbly submitting to your great wisdomes, is a Commodity may bear an Excise as well, and better, than almost any thing in the Kingdome: gold and silver Lace is a superfluity, and it is the wearers payes the Excise, not the Silkmen, Wires drawers, or other Tradesmen: this Trade his Majesty doth allow in favour of the poor women Spinners, and other poor people, that are above twenty thousand souls, who only have their livelyhood from this Manufacture, or else for the reasons aforesaid, it would not be allowed to be wrought in England.

There-

5. Therefore my humble Petition to your Lordships is, in regard your Lordships are of the Committee for the removing the obstructions of the Mint, that your Lordships settle such an Excise on this Manufacture, at the least two pence the Ounce, being so much as his Majesty loseth in the coynage of the same, to be approved and confirmed by the Parliament, for and towards his Majesties losse in His Customes, and in his Coynage, by suffering this Manufacture to be wrought in *England*.

6. That your Lordship would Order for the suture, that no inferiour persons, as Servants, Maids, and other mechanick People, shall weare gold or silver Lace, it being an abuse to persons of honour, men and women, to have mechanick People and Servants to weare Gold and Silver Lace.

7. That your Lordships would be pleased, for the service of his Majesty, and good of all the wearers of gold and silver Lace, which are the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdome, to require the Company of Goldsmiths to consider of such waies and means as they can adde, or alter, either out of the former Regulation settled by his Majesty 1635. or out of their own knowledg and experience by any other Way or Rules, and to use all speed they can therein.

8. The Company of Goldsmiths have declared to me before a Court of Assistants, that they know there is many abuses in this Trade, and if they be required from his Majesty, or your Lordships of the Privy Council, they would be very ready and willing, humbly to consider of such Waies for the prevention of these abuses for the suture: and upon your Lordships approbation or alteration of what they shall propound, that those Orders and Rules agreed upon by your Honours for the Regulating of this Trade, may be recommended by his Majesty to be confirmed by Parliament, and this will be a certain way to prevent these abuses for the suture, when the restraints and punishments shall be settled by Act of Parliament.

*And so as in duty bound, your Petitioner
shall daily pray.*

That after ages, and all true Englishmen may see the cruel oppression I sufferd under, for being faithfull to his sacred Majesty King *Charles* the first, for bringing up to *London* from *Oxford* to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, by his Majesties especial command to me, 1643. this his Majesties letter: which was, as followeth,

Trusty

To our Trusty and welbeloved, Our Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Our City of London, and all other our well affected Subjects of that City

C. R.

TRusty and welbeloved, We greet you well. When we remember the many acts of grace and favour We and Our Royal Predecessours have conferred upon that our City of London, and the many Examples of eminent dutie and loyalty, for which that City hath been likewise famous, We are willing to believe, notwithstanding the great defection We have found in that place, that all men are not so far degenerated from their affection to us and to the peace of the Kingdome, as to desire a continuance of the miseries they now feel; and therefore being informed, that there is a desire in some principal persons of that City to present a Petition to us, which may tend to the procuring a good understanding between Us and that our City, whereby the peace of the whole Kingdome may be procured: We have thought fit to let you know, That We are ready to receive any such Petition, and the persons who shall be appointed to present the same to Us, shall have a safe conduct; and you shall assure all Our good Subjects of that Our City, whose hearts are touched with any sense of duty to Us, or of Love to the Religion and Lawes established, in the quiet and peaceable Fruition whereof they and their Ancestors have enjoyed so great Happinesse, That We have neither passed any Act, nor made any Profession or Protestation for the maintenance and Defence of the true protestant Religion, and the liberties of the Subject, which We will not most strictly and Religiously observe; and for the which we will not be alwaies ready to give them any security can be desired. And of these Our Gracious Letters We expect a speedy Answer from you. And so We bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at Oxford, in the 19. year of Our Reign. 26. De. 1643.

By his Majesties Command. George Digbie.

POSTSCRIPT.

LET any true English man consider of this his Majesties gracious Letter, and then remember the bloody Tragedies that followed, for the sins of the Kingdome; and every honest man will say, the swaying party in that Parliament in Jan. 1643. were great Tyrants and Oppressers, or else they would never have kept me in a Dungeon, in the Tower, 928 dayes, and plundered and robbed me, to the value of eleven thousand pound, for bringing up this Letter from the Kings Majesty from Oxford, to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London: but he is well kept, that God keeps. So I have ever just cause to say: and praise God for my miraculous deliverance from those bloody men.

Thomas Violet.

F I N I S.